AMENDMENTS

In the Specification:

Please amend the paragraph starting on page 10, line 18 as follows:

For example, first, a predetermined amount of ET-receptor produced by the COS cell transformed with the CDM8-phETIR is added to a mixture of a predetermined amount of ET-1 labeled with ^{125}I (^{125}I-ET-1) and unlabeled ET-1 and to allow to react. Then, the amount of labeled binding complex thus produced is measured. In Figure 3, the amount of unlabeled ET-1 is plotted on a horizontal axis by changing the concentration thereof in the range of 10^{-10} to 10^{-6} M, and the radioactivity of an ET-ET-receptor complex (radioactivity of the ET bound to the transformed cell) is plotted on a vertical axis (represented by the symbol ●). Results obtained by performing a competitive assay using unlabeled ET-2 or ET-3 instead of unlabeled ET-1 in the same way as the above are also shown in Figure 3 (represented by the symbols ■ (ET-2) and ▲ (ET-3)). The COS-7 cell obtained by transfecting the CDM8, which is a control plasmid, is cultured and is tested in the same way as the above. The binding amount of ^{125}I-ET-1 is the same level as the amount of non-specific amount of unlabeled ET-1 (the results are not shown). These results indicate that the affinity of the ET-receptor from phETIR according to the present invention for the ET is ET-1 (IC_{50} 3.0 x 10^{-9} M) ≧ ET-2 (IC_{50} 6.1 x 10^{-9} M) >> ET-3 (IC_{50} 1.0 x 10^{-6} M or more), suggesting that this ET-receptor is the ET_A-receptor.

D1

Please amend the paragraph starting on page 11, line 15 as follows:

The same procedure of binding assay as described above is done for the ET-receptor produced from the COS cell transformed with the CDM8-pHETBR. The results are shown in Figure 4 (represented by the symbols ● (ET-I), **O** (ET-2) and ▲ (ET-3)). IC_{50} is about 1.0 x 10^{-9} M, suggesting that this ET-receptor is the ET_B-receptor.

D2

Please amend the paragraph starting on page 18, line 30 with the following:

Binding assays were performed in the same way as described in item (1) using a transformant containing the CDM8-pHETBR instead of a transformant containing the CDM8-phETIR. The results are shown in Figure 4. In Figure 4, **O** shows the radioactivity in the presence of ET-2; ● shows the radioactivity in the presence of ET-1; and ▲ shows the radioactivity in the presence of ET-3. It is understood from Figure 4 that this receptor has almost the same affinity for ET-1, ET-2 and ET-3.

D3